

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of billing network transactions through a network service provider, the method comprising:

receiving a payment request from a content provider;

receiving a first part of a content transmission in a peer-to-peer network, wherein the content is unprotected;

offering an option of billing the payment request to a subscriber's network access provider;

receiving an indication of transport parameters in the peer-to-peer network, the indication being associated with the content of the content transmission;

receiving a second part of the content transmission in the peer-to-peer network;

and

transmitting the second part of the content transmission in the peer-to-peer network in accordance with the transport parameters.

2. (Currently Amended) A transmission device comprising:

a data receiver configured to receive a first part of a content transmission, and an indication of payment parameters required for exploiting [[that]] content of the content transmission in a peer-to-peer network;

a service logic for grouping the first part of the content transmission and subsequent parts of the content transmission as a communications flow in the peer-to-peer network;

a payment logic for determining the payment parameters of the content transmission in the peer-to-peer network according to the indication of payment parameters, wherein the payment logic offers the option of billing payment to a network access provider of a subscriber;

a switching apparatus for transporting the first part and subsequent parts of the content transmission to a communications port according to the communications flow determined by the service logic in the peer-to-peer network; and

a data transmitter to transmit a payment authorization request to a payment receiver.

Claim 3. (New) The method of billing according to claim 1, further comprising:
recognizing a transaction in a preferred transporter for transmitting the content transmission; and
transmitting, from the preferred transporter, an offer to bill a network access provider to the subscriber.

Claim 4. (New) The method of billing according to claim 3, further comprising:
automatically authenticating a subscriber at the preferred transporter by using a machine address of the subscriber's modem and binding it to a particular instance of at least one selected from a group consisting of a dynamic IP address and an authenticated subscriber identifier.

Claim 5. (New) The method of billing according to claim 4, further comprising:

automatically authenticating a subscriber at the preferred transporter by using a machine address of the subscriber's modem and binding it to a particular instance of both a dynamic IP address and an authenticated subscriber identifier.

Claim 6. (New) The method of billing according to claim 3, further comprising:
 billing a subscriber for network access provider charges and for payment requests from a content provider.

Claim 7. (New) The method of billing according to claim 1, further comprising:
 receiving the payment request at a preferred transporter;
 interpreting a content tag of the content transmission;
 sending a request from the preferred transporter to a network access provider;
 identifying a subscriber; and
 billing the subscriber.

Claim 8. (New) The method of billing according to claim 3,
 wherein the content provider is an online merchant;
 wherein the preferred transporter is capable of arbitrating between multiple online merchants, multiple payment gateways, and multiple network access providers.

Claim 9. (New) The method of billing according to claim 8, further comprising:
 billing for microtransactions.

Claim 10. (New) The method of billing according to claim 8, further comprising:
pre-establishing accounts for online merchants with a network access provider.

Claim 11. (New) The method of billing according to claim 10, further comprising:
providing preferred transporter service to pre-established accounts.

Claim 12. (New) The method of billing according to claim 1, wherein the content transmission is media content with corresponding license requirements and business rule requirements, the method further comprising:

automatically interacting with a database to authenticate content requestor information and to determine network access provider information;

generating a bill for the content transmission with a payment server, wherein the server is one selected from a group consisting of a server associated with the content transmission and a payment server aggregation point;

automatically enforcing license requirements and business rule requirements including payment requirements for playback of the media content.

Claim 13. (New) The method of billing according to claim 12, further comprising:

aggregating generated bills;

providing billing information to the network access provider in at least one of the formats from a group consisting of real time and periodic aggregated billing information.

Claim 14. (New) The method of billing according to claim 3, further comprising:

presenting the offer to bill the network access provider to the subscriber as at least one from a group consisting of the only payment option, the default payment option, and one of a plurality of payment options.

Claim 15. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transport parameters includes at least one from a group consisting of an exclusion of usage fees, an inclusion of usage fees, a byte cap restriction, the removal of a byte cap restriction, a decreased bandwidth, and an increased bandwidth.